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**INITIAL ISSUE!**

**This is our first issue of the Mayor's Monthly Newsletter. We always receive requests for more and better communication, so, in an effort to open up an additional channel of communication with our residents, the Monthly Newsletter is created! I will discuss various items of interest that most of our citizens do not have the opportunity to know about due to the way city government works. All of our departments will also have the opportunity to pass along any information they feel you need to know about.**

**DEER MANAGEMENT**

I would like to take this opportunity to bring the citizens of HP up to date with regard to our Deer Management program. I am sure you are aware by now that urban deer populations are a problem around the country. Hollywood Park is not the only urban area dealing with this situation. The purpose of our Deer Program has always been to find a balance between Man and nature, not just deer, but all the living things within the ecosystem of HP. Since the deer have such an effect on the ecosystem they have been the focus of the program. Hollywood Park made a decision several years ago when we started this program to use the trap and release program as much as possible so the deer have the opportunity to live on ranches. Most other cities with this problem utilize the trap and process program which provides meat to charitable organizations.

We have been very successful in obtaining several ranches who have expressed an interest in receiving deer. One ranch close to Sonora has requested 245 deer to help in re-populating the area. The ranch is prime deer country and the owner has gone to great lengths to provide adequate water and supplemental feed to insure that the deer have as easy a relocation as possible. All of the relocated deer are vaccinated and wormed before being transported.

The Deer Management efforts have, for quite some time, been hampered by legal actions and interference of all kinds. This year, the Town of Hollywood Park was successful in defending itself with regard to the lawsuit that was filed against it by the HP Humane society and Hugh Scott, a resident. With this legal hurdle out of the way the relocation efforts have been in high gear. There have been, however several incidences of interference with the process. Someone poured turpentine on one of the drop nets located on city property on Donella. Turpentine was also poured on the ground at this location, which is also the site of an Edwards Aquifer recharge zone test well. Deer repellent is sprayed, with consistency on the panel traps located in several locations. Chili powder has been spread within the trap areas. Diesel fuel was just recently sprayed down one residents asphalt driveway and on the ground adjacent. This fuel was sprayed on top of the corn that was being used as bait for the deer. In addition the damage to the resident's property, and our Aquifer, squirrels and doves were seen eating the oil soaked corn!

In another attempt to disrupt the trapping, someone poured corn over about 100 feet of Meadowbrook to the point that the Police & Fire departments were called out to clean the street and to direct the traffic during the process. Actions such as this endanger not only the deer but motorists as well. [continued on page 2]

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### **Deer Management Program (continued)**

In prior years the highest number of deer relocated has never exceeded 199. There has been no noticeable change in deer numbers or in the regeneration of natural areas or landscapes. This indicated that more deer would need to be relocated in one year to be able to begin to see results. TP&W biologists suggested that more deer be removed this year. So far this year we have been able to remove more deer than before and will be working with the local TP&W urban wildlife biologist over the next year to see if any progress has been made. It is important to note that it will take time to determine what progress is being made. This is an ongoing project. The damage that has been done in the past to plant life will not disappear overnight even though we have been in a drought situation. Have you noticed that the deer are in better shape physically than they have been in years? TP&W biologists have noted that HP deer are in better shape than most deer they have observed in the Hill Country. There are several good reasons for this. Without going into all the full blown details let me just mention the highlights. Whitetail deer are very adaptable and resourceful. They have learned to survive in Hollywood Park by living mostly on vegetation.

I think it is very safe to say the deer in HP are not starving. There are still a handful of residents that continue to ignore the feeding ban and still feed the deer. When deer are given supplemental feed they will abandon their natural feeding habitat and feeding patterns. The feeding of deer by some residents causes a disruption in the deer's natural feeding habits and causes damage to the adjacent neighbor's yards when large numbers of deer congregate in one place.

If the result of this year's trapping is as expected, we may be able to dramatically reduce our trapping activity next year and move into a maintenance phase of our deer management program.

### **BEXAR MET ISSUES**

I know everyone is aware of the issues we faced last summer with Bexar Met regarding the severe restrictions that were placed on Hollywood Park and Hill Country Village. I have been in quite a few meetings the last couple of months exploring and discussing Bexar Met's plan for resolving them so we do not have a recurrence again this summer. I have met several times with our elected official from Bexar Met, Lesley Wenger. I have also been in meetings with Lyle Larsen, Nelson Wolf, Frank Corte, and of course Bexar Met officials. Gil Olivares, CEO at Bexar Met has assured me that we should not see the same type of restrictions as last summer. Bexar Met is in the process of adding several new wells in HCV that are supposed to help our two towns avoid the situation we encountered last year. Mr. Olivares did state that everyone in this northern district needs to be more aware of water conservation due to increased pumping restrictions in the Edwards Aquifer and the increased growth north of 1604. One of Bexar Met's solutions to this is to sponsor educational meetings to discuss methods of conserving water.

### **POOL NEWS**

We are taking applications for life guards and pool manager for this summer. If you know qualified, dependable candidates, please tell them to come by city hall and pick up an application.



### **EMAIL**

If you would like to be kept abreast of the issues facing our town via electronic communication from HP City Hall, please send us your email address to: [mail@hollywoodpark-tx.gov](mailto:mail@hollywoodpark-tx.gov)